

FYI – For Your Information

Special Regulation: Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications

The sale of newspapers as defined in C.R.S. 1973, 24-70-102, is exempt from sales and use tax. The referenced section reads as follows:

“Every newspaper printed and published daily, or daily except Sundays and legal holidays, or which shall be printed and published on each of any five days in every week excepting legal holidays and including or excluding Sundays, shall be considered and held to be a daily newspaper; every newspaper printed and published at regular intervals three times each week shall be considered and held to be a tri-weekly newspaper; every newspaper printed and published at regular intervals twice weekly shall be considered and held to be a semi-weekly newspaper; and every newspaper printed and published at regular intervals once a week shall be considered and held to be a weekly newspaper.”

This exemption on sale of newspapers may not be extended to include: magazines, trade publications or journals, credit bulletins, advertising pamphlets, circulars, directories, maps, racing programs, reprints, newspaper clipping and mailing service or listings, publications that include an updating or revision service, book or pocket editions of books or other newspapers not otherwise qualifying under the above paragraph.

A publisher who only makes sales of newspapers is not required to obtain a store license or a sales tax license. The publisher shall pay sales or use tax upon all purchases of tangible personal property, except newsprint, printers ink, and electricity or gas used in the production of the newspaper product. If the newspaper publisher makes retail sales of other articles delivered in Colorado, he shall obtain a store license or a sales tax license and collect sales tax, and may purchase such articles tax-free for resale.

Magazines, periodicals, trade journals, etc., are tangible personal property whose retail sale is taxable.

Subscriptions to such publications taken within this state and sent to a publishing house outside the state, where the publication is mailed directly to the subscriber, are subject to the retailer's use tax. Where such publications are printed and sold within this state, the selling price (subscription price) is taxable. If the publication is printed in Colorado and delivery is made out of Colorado, the sale is not taxable.

Trade journals, advertising pamphlets, circulars, etc., which are to be distributed free of charge and are distributed by means of house to house delivery are not exempt from sales tax. Sales tax must be paid to the printer by the advertiser at



Colorado Department
of Revenue
Taxpayer Service Division
1375 Sherman St.
Denver, Colorado 80261

Forms and other services:
(303) 238-FAST (3278)
Assistance:
(303) 238-SERV (7378)
Fuel Tax: (303) 205-5602
www.taxcolorado.com

the time that these are prepared by the printer. If these items are purchased out of state and no sales tax has been paid in that state, the advertiser must pay a Colorado use tax. Preprinted newspaper supplements which become attached to or inserted in and distributed with newspapers are exempt.

Organizations which produce and distribute free trade publications, etc. are deemed to be purchasers for their use or consumption and are subjected to tax based on the purchase price of the tangible personal property used.

Citation:

Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications, Special Regulations for Specific Businesses, 1 CCR 201-5, page 29.